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one after another, evidently upon a thoroughly digested plan, and with much art. Classification is made to go as far as it possibly can, and the unclassifiable residue is given last, to be learned outright. The minimum of diacritical signs is introduced; except for a few specially common cases, like the *z*-sound of *s*, the surd *th* (of *thin*), the short *oo* (of *book*), they are employed only here and there; the learner does not come to rely upon them in any such way as makes the common English orthography seem strange to him when he has to quit his primer. Throughout the work the consonants are grouped according to their natural physical classification, not according to the accidental order in which they stand in the alphabet; that order, and the common names of the letters, are taught by special lesson at an advanced point in the book, when the learner is far enough along not to be troubled by them. It might not, perhaps, be fairly claimed that an appreciable practical advantage is derived by the young scholar from this more scientific method; yet it is well even for him to be accustomed from the start to looking at the alphabet of spoken sounds from the right point of view, and to the teacher it is even more profitable. Any one who makes use of the book must feel that it is founded upon a kind and degree of scholarship much above that which usually belongs to primer-makers. Its authors, Messrs. Soule and Wheeler, are too well known in our community to need introduction or commendation here: their contributions to the two great rival dictionaries of Webster and Worcester, their excellent little *Manual of English Pronunciation and Spelling*, Mr. Wheeler's *Dictionary of the Noted Names of Fiction*, etc., have won for them an enviable reputation among students of the English language. Their last production, in a sphere generally reputed less dignified, but certainly not less important, is well worthy of them, and is to be unreservedly recommended to all who have children or pupils to instruct in the art of spelling and reading.

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13. — *Greece, Ancient and Modern. Lectures delivered before the Lowell Institute.* By C. C. FELTON, LL.D., late President of Harvard University. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1867. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. vi., 511; iv., 549.

THE Lectures printed in these volumes were delivered in 1852, 1853, 1854, and 1859, and were intended to give to a popular audience a general account of Greece. Thoroughly acquainted as Mr. Felton was with Greek literature, and with whatever had been written concerning Greece, inspired with enthusiasm for his subject, he was admirably

fitted to perform the task which he undertook. He imparted to his hearers the strong feeling with which he was possessed of interest in the history of Greece, of admiration for Greek letters and art, his reverence for her past, his hope for her future. He made them share his own ardent sympathies. His object was not one of critical investigation or discussion, or of a purely scholarly character; and the merit of the book made up out of the Lectures springs mainly from the appreciative, genial spirit of its author, and the vividness of his conception of his topic. The scholar may regret at times a certain apparent superficiality in Mr. Felton's method of dealing with some of the questions which he treats; but the severest critic will be ready to excuse this appearance, in consideration of the character of the audience to which the Lectures were addressed, and of the fact that they have not received before publication the revision of their lamented author.

It is, indeed, striking to mark the progress which has been made in the study of some of the topics of Mr. Felton's first Lectures since the time of their delivery. The discussion of the origin of language is now out of date, and it is to be regretted that this and one or two other passages of a similar sort were not omitted by the editor. Mr. Felton stoutly maintains the old doctrine of the unity of Homer. Since 1852 the question has received much elucidation. At present few competent scholars would adopt Mr. Felton's positive conclusions. The thorough study of the Oriental and mediæval epics has placed this matter in a new light, — the light of a general poetical law. And even if we disregard the argument from analogy, which Burnouf has ably set forth in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* of October 1, 1866, the other objections to the popular creed are so striking, that we cannot believe that Mr. Felton, were he writing now, would treat the "separatists" with the same *nonchalance* he formerly used when he said, "No person in the exercise of common sense would ever suspect while reading the Iliad or Odyssey a want of unity, completeness, or coherence." But Mr. Felton's literary judgments are generally not only sympathetic, but sound; and his Lectures on the Greek Language and Poetry afford a most agreeable and appreciative introduction to the knowledge of the masterpieces of the poetic literature of Greece. His long and intimate familiarity with the works of which he treated, his great love for them, and his knowledge of the circumstances in which they were composed, and of the characters of their authors, enabled him to enter fully into their spirit, and to display it with truth and animation to his hearers. No one can have listened to these Lectures without being impressed more strongly than before with the splendid power and variety of the Greek genius.

The Lectures on the Life of Greece are perhaps the most interesting portion of these volumes, introducing us as they do into the heart of ancient Greek civilization and society, presenting us with a vivid picture of manners and habits, and setting forth in detail the public and private life of a Greek citizen. The skill with which Mr. Felton combines the materials for his descriptions is not less marked than the wide learning from which he draws them. The characters of Greek history are invested with a fresh reality in the light of a knowledge of the conditions under which they lived.

The third and fourth Courses, entitled respectively "The Constitutions and Orators of Greece" and "Modern Greece," are in considerable part historical, and their value consists, not merely in the general views which they present, but also in their special narratives, and the accounts which they contain of the position, character, and services of individuals. The Lectures on Modern Greece comprise a brief but interesting sketch of the mediæval history of Greece, of the Turkish dominion, of the Greek Revolution, and of the state of the country and of the people under King Otho, at the period of the author's first visit to Greece. The general reader will find here such information on these topics as may suffice to furnish him with intelligent notions concerning them, and he can hardly fail to be warmed by the author's enthusiasm into sympathetic interest in the fortunes and fate of the land which he loved so well.

The work altogether forms a singularly worthy and characteristic memorial of the life and labors of its author. No one can read it without receiving a strong impression of some of the qualities of mind and heart which endeared Mr. Felton to a large circle of friends, and which will long preserve his memory fresh in their affection. The editor of the volumes has performed his charge with the highest fidelity and diligence.

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14. — *The Life and Times of Sa-go-ye-wat-ha, or Red Jacket.* By the late WILLIAM L. STONE. With a Memoir of the Author, by his Son. Albany, N. Y.: Munsell. 1866. 8vo. pp. 510.

A WORK of filial piety has been honorably discharged in the preparation and publication of this volume. The Memoir of the late Mr. Stone is a biography of a man whose memory may well be dear to those who were bound to him by ties of kindred, and whose name deserves a place in the literary annals of the country, not only as editor for many years of one of the leading daily papers in New York, but also as the author of numerous creditable historical works.